

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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S E C R E T AMMAN 06006

SY CHANNEL

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR SY/CC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF THREAT POTENTIAL TO AMBASSADOR
ATHERTON DURING VISIT TO AMMAN

REF: STATE 176665

1. THIS REPORT REFLECTS INTELLIGENCE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO POST REGARDING THE UP-COMING ATHERTON VISIT. ESTIMATE:
2. CURRENT UN, SYRIAN AND ISRAELI MILITARY FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAVE FORCED FATAH TO USE JORDAN AS A MEANS TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE WEST BANK. THIS INCREASED FLOW OF FATAH TO JORDAN IN ORDER TO MOUNT OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL HAS LED TO AN INCREASE OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES ALONG THE BORDER OF THE EAST AND WEST BANKS. IT IS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TARGETS OF THESE OPERATIONS ARE LOCATED ON THE WEST BANK AND ARE NOT AIMED AT JORDAN. IN ADDITION, THERE IS NO INFORMATION THAT AMERICAN INTERESTS ARE TARGETS OF THIS GROUP.

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3. ALTHOUGH THE FLOW OF MEMBERS OF PALESTINIAN DISSIDENT GROUPS THROUGH JORDAN HAS RISEN, THE GOJ KEEPS VERY CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE WATCH ON THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE BASIC AIM OF THESE GROUPS IS TO SMUGGLE WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES INTO JORDAN SO THAT SUCH ITEMS CAN BE USED TO MOUNT TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK OR ISRAEL.

4. GOJ VIRTUALLY PROHIBITS ALL FORMS OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. HOWEVER, IN LATE MARCH SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS DID OCCUR IN SEVERAL PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN JORDAN IN REACTION TO THE ISRAELI INCURSION INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. SEVERAL ACCIDENTAL DEATHS OCCURRED WITH NUMEROUS INJURED. GOJ ALLOWED THESE LIMITED DEMONSTRATIONS TO TAKE PLACE TO PROVIDE PALESTINIANS A VENT FOR PENT-UP FRUSTRATIONS.

WITH CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE SYMPATHETIC TO AN ATHERTON VISIT COUPLED WITH TIGHT CONTROL OVER INTERNAL SECURITY, PROSPECT OF ANY FORM OF DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER POPULAR DISTURBANCE IS VERY LOW. OVERALL SITUATION IN JORDAN IS TIGHTLY CONTROLLED.

5. JORDANIANS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS AMERICANS, AND THE MANY SECSTATE AND ATHERTON VISITS TO AMMAN HAVE ALWAYS ENCOUNTERED FRIENDLY RECEPTION. CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE FAVORS ATHERTON VISIT.

6. JORDANIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY LEAD AND FOLLOW CARS ALONG WITH SECURITY PERSONNEL. HOTEL WHERE AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WILL RESIDE WILL BE COMPLETELY SWEEPED PRIOR TO VISIT AND HAVE 24-HOUR SECURITY COVERAGE, ESPECIALLY ON AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S FLOOR. CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN RSO AND POLICE AND INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES WILL BE MAINTAINED. SUDDARTH

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